

BONANZA SHUT-DOWN A PART OF SMOOTH PLAN

Scheme to Bear the Market and Snap Up All Available Adjoining Properties.

Somewhere in Portland, and somebody from Sumpter who is visiting in Portland, have focused their mental telescopes and announce the discovery of blood on the moon and a nigger in the woodpile. These startling finds relate to the Bonanza mine at Geiser.

The Portland Journal prints the following:

"A prominent citizen of Sumpter, now visiting Portland, but who does not care to have his name discussed, reveals a peculiar condition prevailing at the Bonanza mine in Baker county. The Bonanza is the deepest mine in Oregon. It has a vertical shaft down to the 1200-foot level, and exhaustive drifts have been run from the shaft down as far as the ninth level. The hoist is the second best in the state, being an enormous plant, capable of sinking to the 2,000 level, and there is a complete forty-stamp mill on the property, connected with the mine workings by an excellent aerial tram. Yet when Manager W. A. Thatcher got this shaft down to the 1200 level, he suspended work, pulled the pumps first to the 900 level, and later pulled them to the surface, letting the big property fill. At present there is no one working there, the mine being in charge of a watchman."

"This story is one of gloom, no more. For Oregon's deepest mine to close could have but a depressing effect on the entire district and killed the little community around Bonanza. Mine operators of the Blue mountains have been wont to look upon the great property, which is known to have produced a large amount of gold, with a sense of foreboding."

"Yet there is another feature of the case not known to the public, and which may brighten the situation materially. Since closing down the management of the Bonanza mine has acquired two considerable sized mining properties adjacent, and is said to be seeking other holdings. The Rosolute group, on the west, owned by Messrs. Hall, senior and junior, on which development was prosecuted slowly for the past three years, was first bought. Later the Black Bird group, opened by a 900-foot crosscut and some drifting, and lying further to the west, was taken in. A prominent mine owner is authority for the statement that other negotiations have been conducted."

"If the Bonanza mine has been abandoned, it is not clear what motives the owners would have in acquiring adjacent property. The natural conclusion among most people around Bonanza is that there is a shut down for a purpose, and that when sufficient land near has been taken, there will be another

story. The company is composed of Pittsburg capitalists, and has always been one of the closest of the close corporations. No information is given out at any time relative to mine affairs. Nothing may be expected now until affairs take their course and it suits the owners to dismantle the plant or resume again, after acquiring all the land near that can be had. Manager Thatcher has gone away, and there is no representative of the company about the property, save the watchman."

All of which is here reprinted and accorded the benefit of The Miners' circulation because it sounds a whole lot like the truth.

General Manager Thatcher, of the Bonanza mine, is and always has been the very close-mouthed local representative of a closed-mouthed company, composed of close-mouthed stockholders in the close-mouthed Standard Oil corporation. Since his assumption of control of the Bonanza and the retirement therefrom of J. P. Hayes, no newspaper reporter has ever been accorded the privilege of an interview. Whatever was learned about the mine under the Thatcher management came from lips other than official. It is a fact, however, that at the Bonanza, an immense ore shoot was opened. Thatcher never said so, neither did he deny. The writer acquired the information from an employe of the mine, who knew what he was talking about.

When, this summer, the Bonanza was closed, the pumps pulled and the shaft permitted to fill, the writer asked Manager Thatcher, who was then convalescent from the effects of an operation at a Baker City hospital, for a statement regarding the plans of the company. It was refused—absolutely.

In the spring of 1900, with forty stamps dropping, the Bonanza yielded a monthly average of \$40,000 in gold. During one month of the same year the cleanup reached the record-breaking figures of \$102,000. The property is superbly equipped, has always paid handsomely, and yet is closed down.

Mayhap that suspected nigger in the woodpile is the same chocolate-colored gent who, in the spring of 1900, plunged the old Bonanza company into an internal war and forced the retirement of President Hayes.

Reported Changes at North Pole.

It is reported that a number of important changes in the official roster of the North Pole Mining company, at Bourns, are to take place about November 1, or as soon as Manager Melzer returns from his European trip, which is expected shortly. It is understood that Superintendent Fox has already

made his arrangements to step down and out and is awaiting the coming of his successor to turn over his responsibilities. Mr. Fox has been with the company for many years and why the change is made at this time is not a matter of publicity.—Democrat.

Red Boy Mine Affairs.

Acting Manager John Thomsen drove in from the Red Boy this morning. He says the May Queen sawmill is busy cutting timbers for the Red Boy in anticipation of the reopening of that property, which is scheduled to occur shortly after November 18, on which date a meeting of stockholders in the old company will be held in Baker City, for the purpose of perfecting final and definite reorganization.

Tom Costello in Reno.

T. H. Dunphy is in receipt of a letter from Tom Costello, late of Sumpter, who is now at Reno, Nevada. He writes that he has been sick for the past month, but that he is now recovered. He has made arrangements to go to Goldfield and look at a mine with a view to taking a 100-foot lease. Should the proposition not look good, he will go to work by the day.

CABLE COVE HUMS, SAYS DAD ADDOMS

John Addoms, Senior, passed through Sumpter today on his way to Baker City from Cable Cove, where he owns valuable mining properties lying between the Baby McKee and Last Chance, upon which he has been prosecuting development work during the summer.

"Cable Cove is all right," said Mr. Addoms, who, by the way, is a brother of Dick Addoms, of the Alpine, and who is one of the oldest operators in the Cove, being contemporaneous in point of early arrival, with the Cable brothers, the pioneers.

"I own a group of seven claims abutting on the Last Chance, and during the summer have shown up some good ore. Many properties are working in my immediate neighborhood. North of the Alpine, Menno Unzieker, of Baker City, has a force of men opening up a group of fine claims. The advance company is working its North Fork claims with good results. Ten stamps are dropping night and day at the Alpine, and the Imperial mill is pounding away steadily. Fine ore is being uncovered at the Mormon Boy, owned by Sage & Grace, of Baker, and Judge Smith is opening up an extension thereto. The Overland is busy all the time and is showing up better every day. The whole camp is busy."

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NEW YORK BANKER

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TRUST SUING MONTE CRISTO

An Everett, Washington, dispatch says that the American Smelting & Refining company has commenced suit against the Monte Cristo Mining & Concentration company to recover \$10,473.40 advanced at various times for the maintenance and operation of the mines at Monte Cristo, and has petitioned the superior court for the appointment of a receiver.

The complaint alleges that the mining company owes taxes for the years 1898 to 1903, inclusive, amounting to \$9,641.05, and that those for 1898 are in process of foreclosure. It is also alleged that operation of the mines proved unprofitable and exhausted all the resources of the defendant to meet losses, and that as the capital stock is fully paid and nonassessable, it is impossible to realize anything from assessment of stockholders.

The stockholders, it is alleged, have refused to advance money to meet the indebtedness, and the defendant corporation has been unable to borrow money to pay the taxes or indebtedness.

The plaintiff alleges that the property is of doubtful value, and although operated for a period of ten years past has never been able to pay expenses.

Another reason advanced for the receivership is the fact that Joseph Polish has sued the mining company for \$100,100 damaged for personal injuries.

The facts recited in the complaint seem to verify the oft-repeated assertion that "those mines never did, never could and never would pay." But the expense accounts and the mine, concentrator, railroad and smelter reports covering the career of the ore from the time it was blasted from the vein until it was reduced to bullion would throw light in some dark places.

It is a fact well known to mining men, and especially to those who have had ore sent to the obsolete concentrator through which all of the Monte Cristo company's ores were run, that from thirty to fifty per cent of the values went down the creek in tailings, and that much of the crude ore before going into the mill was richer than the concentrates that came out; that the mines were really assessed to pay expenses of concentration. Under the Rockefeller administration the freight charges from Monte Cristo were \$2.50 a ton, and smelter charges were not less than \$6, as against a combined rate of \$5 since the smelter passed into the hands of the American Smelting & Refining company. To make the point better understood to the inexperienced: Ores from these mines of a value as low as \$9 a ton can now be shipped at a profit without concentration, while the actual cost under the former administration was \$12. In running the gauntlet of the concentrator high grade ore was reduced to low grade concentrates.

A bar of iron valued at five dollars, when manufactured into various articles is enhanced enormously in value. Thus, needles to the value of \$450 can be made from it. If pen-knife blades be made of it they will be valued at \$3,000 and if balance springs for watches, \$200,000 is not too high a value.